

For Immediate Release:

February 26, 2016

Contact:

Michael Williams

(850) 717-4940, Michael.Williams@MyFloridaHouse.gov

**Statement by Florida House Speaker Steve Crisafulli
On Reaching Budget Allocations**

Tallahassee – House Speaker Steve Crisafulli (R-Merritt Island) issued the following statement today on reaching budget allocations:

“The Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate, working together, have reached agreement on the budget framework, known as allocations. We have accord on all of the essential elements to produce a budget that is balanced and will provide meaningful tax relief to Floridians.

“I want to thank Chair Corcoran and President Lee for negotiating with respect, civility, and a mutual understanding of the need to find common ground.

“The House is particularly pleased with the robust tax cut allocation that provides Floridians with a broad-based and meaningful cut to their tax bills and pumps hundreds of millions of dollars back into our economy.

“While the original House budget had a billion dollar tax cut, it contained no money to offer economic incentives to corporations seeking to move to or expand in Florida. The Senate took a different approach with a lower tax cut and 250 million dollars for economic incentives.

“I fully expected the House would ultimately need to compromise on our position. No one person or chamber has the power to control the process. The Legislature, by its very design, is a place where both sides must agree at some point.

“The Senate’s decision to meet the House on economic development funding was unexpected, but will undoubtedly be welcomed by the majority of members of the Legislature.

“While I firmly believe that all members of the Legislature want to see our economy grow and increase jobs in Florida, there is great bipartisan disagreement over whether our current economic incentives are the best way to achieve those goals.

“I want to thank Rep. Jim Boyd for sponsoring the bill to bring more accountability and transparency to the process. It is an important first step in helping legislators gain confidence on how taxpayer dollars are being spent on economic development in Florida.

“No one side got everything they wanted in the initial budget agreements. It’s how the process is designed. Yet both sides are poised to achieve the most important thing we all want; to produce a balanced budget in a timely manner for all Floridians. Though we still have work to do, we are well on our way.”

#